

## **Washington State PBDE Chemical Action Plan**

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PBDEs are flame retardants added to plastics, upholstery fabrics, and foams. Three commercial mixtures are used in products: Penta-BDE, Octa-BDE and Deca-BDE. Each mixture has different applications and toxicity. Chemical manufacturers ceased production of Penta and Octa-BDE at the end of 2004; Deca-BDE remains in production. Although Deca-BDE is the least toxic of the three forms, it may degrade into the more toxic components of Penta or Octa-BDE over time. PBDEs have been found in the environment, foods, and people at increasing levels. The components of the Penta and Octa-BDE mixtures are those most often found in food and people, while Deca-BDE is more prevalent in sediment and indoor dust. January 2004, Governor Locke issued Executive Order 04-01, which directed the Department of Ecology, in consultation with the Department of Health, to develop a plan to reduce the threat of PBDEs in the environment. The resulting Interim PBDE Chemical Action Plan, released in December 2004, recommends a ban on the manufacture, distribution, or sale of new products containing Penta or Octa-BDE by July 2006. It further recommends that the Departments of Ecology and Health develop a proposal for a ban on appropriate products containing Deca-BDE. Additional information on the Interim Plan is available at [www.flameretardants.org](http://www.flameretardants.org).